

PEACE NEWS

No. 584 September 5, 1947 3d.

Economic Solvency or Military Power

THE events of the past few days cannot in any sense be regarded as cheering. Britain's own economic crisis has dominated the scene at home and the Government's faltering handling of the situation has not been calculated to inspire confidence or make the ordinary man feel that we can weather the storm. In the

COMMENTARY by KEN WOODROOFE

international sphere we have witnessed once more the spectacle of "open disagreements openly arrived at."

Palestine is a tragic picture of terrorism and violence, yet members of the UNO special commission are divided on the solution.

Everybody knows that the economic recovery of Europe depends upon the wheels of German industry being set in motion as speedily as possible, yet the Anglo-American decision to raise the level of the industry has been marred by failure to obtain French consent to the plan.

Co-operation—a stalemate

EVEN that mouthpiece of British Conservatism, the Daily Telegraph, recognises that the alternative to the bare minimum of economic co-operation between the European nations, embodied in the form of a customs union, is "to leave Europe with every country working in watertight compartments of economic nationalism, slowly declining in power to recover." Yet here, again, there is a stalemate, the nations at the Paris conference being unable to agree to such a modest proposal as that put forward by Britain to set up a committee to study the possibility of a Western custom union.

While Egypt seethes with resentment at the presence of British troops on her soil, the Security Council displays such an ineptitude in its discussions of the dispute that when Mr. Gromyko asked for a twenty-four hour adjournment to consider the matter, Mr. Herschell Johnson, the USA representative, was constrained to declare that in the present temper and confusion of the council the adjournment had better last a fortnight! And while these disagreements and wranglings are taking place round the conference table people are being massacred on an unbelievably horrible scale in the Punjab.

Government's timidity

TO deal with the home situation first. It is now fairly evident that the Government have blundered in their obvious hesitation to tell people the worst. It is clear that the cuts announced last week are only the first instalment. People were braced to hear the worst and it would have been much better if the Government had taken them into their confidence and told them precisely what was facing them.

The net result of the announcement has been to create a feeling of uncertainty that has irritated rather than soothed the public. It has also given rise to a doubt as to whether the Government really know themselves what they are going to do next

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6).

The World Festival at Prague

YOUTH AND PEACE

Personal contact breaks the barriers of Ideology

by TONY BISHOP

Editor of the Australian Peacemaker

I HAVE just returned from Prague, where youth from 67 nations have been together for the last four weeks at a Festival organised by the World Federation of Democratic Youth. There were about 20,000 visitors to the Festival, while the number of Czechoslovakian youth attending must have amounted to fully 60,000.

Prague, ancient and grey, swarmed with people of diverse colours, creeds and political beliefs. Vaclavský Namesti (Wenceslas Square to you mate) was a Babel of tongues. There were Indonesians, Australians, youth from India and Pakistan, a mixed delegation of Arabs and Jews from Palestine, a section of 250 Conservatives from Great Britain in a delegation of 900. There were Western and Eastern Europeans, folk from free China and underground Spain. A delegation from Soviet Russia (which held conferences on request with other delegations), and negroes and whites from the USA.

A marked abstention

The most marked abstention however, was, so I am told, by the British Labour Party youth groups, which refrained from official contact on account of the alleged Communist line of the organisers. But whatever the slant, and there is no doubt where the main sympathy lay, the result was magnificent. The World Federation of Democratic Youth is to be congratulated on its experiment. I don't know whether the British Labour Party's contention is true. Nor do I care much. Those of us who are not Communists can, I believe, lose nothing by friendly contact with persons of different ideology; and that many others agree with me was shown, not only by the presence of the British Conservatives but by a section of the Dutch Delegation who were by no means antagonistic to their government's action in Indonesia.

The programme of the Festival included sports functions, music—from symphony to jazz—ballet, theatre, film. Perhaps the most outstanding technically, were the concerts by the Soviet delegation, but the Youth Symphony orchestra from Holland, and the folk dance exhibitions from the Slav countries were equally superb.



TONY BISHOP

Nor were things other than the aesthetic neglected. Subjects dealt with in lectures included among many others, Indonesian freedom, and the struggle in Greece and Spain. The attitude on these subjects was emphatically against the Dutch and Greek and Franco Governments.

There were also lectures and discussions on such things as the United Nations Cultural and Scientific Organisation, Danish Folk High Schools, the French film, and conditions of youth in various countries.

At the Exhibition, which presented aspects of youth work the world over, I should say that it was evident that some delegations had considerable backing from their governments. This was notably so in the stands from the Eastern European States. This comment, however, should not be taken as adverse criticism. The Dutch government also subsidised their youth orchestra and ballet. If the youth in these countries are fortunate enough to secure official support it does not necessarily mean anything more than a recognition of the importance of a healthy youth to a nation.

But to one specifically interested in the problems of building world peace, what are the relevant impressions?

Well, first that this personal contact of youth from so many nations is a good thing. Here we could realise that we all had common basic needs and emotions. Here we could meet as humans, not as articles in newspapers, or insignificant dots in masses of war victims or armies. Here I learned that the Poles who have suffered so much were Pavel, Bitschek, Josef, Madelina, Alicia, not just "the Polish people." Here I met Han, Dolf, Art, Jan, Cor as fellow beings, not as "pro-Indonesian or anti-Indonesian Dutch." Surely the contact will make some of us, if only a few, less willing tools of national or sectional interests.

I was also interested in the emphasis on peace. Posters were everywhere—"Mladez Pracuje Pro Mir"—"Youth Unite for Peace"—on a background of the globe crossed by barbed wire and music staves. Continually there was an emphasis that peace is indivisible: that it involves Spain, Indonesia, Greece, no less than USA, Britain, India.

By an absolute pacifist, of course, the methods advocated and used are rejected. Here was no advocate of non-violent direct action, nor reconciliation. Rather a resurgence of hopeful energy and a determination to fight for world freedom. We may believe that the methods will fail, carrying in them the seeds of their own disaster. But we would do well to note, and note well, these hopes and desires. We should also mark the ferment that is going on. The youth of the Slav nations is on the march. Whither I do not know.

Real freedom

In Czechoslovakia I should say there is a real freedom. People are not afraid to talk critically of their Government if they want to, in the streets, cafes or night clubs. As to an "iron curtain," many of the young visitors hitch-hiked all over the country without let or hindrance.

From Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Albania, came youth, telling of great changes and upheavals. Many bore marks of Nazi concentration camps on their bodies. But full of hope, marching in procession, with youth banners waving, singing the songs of their liberation.

And as never before I suggest that there is a need for "bridge-building."

We cannot neglect the differences between the conception of life in Eastern and Western Democracies. But is it too much to expect that there is a solution to the problem which begins with human contact between ordinary people and which rises over these national and sectional differences, averting the danger of World War III?—a solution which will prevent these young people offering themselves again on the altar of the War God, willing victims to national and sectional ideologies, because of their natural desire for justice, peace and freedom?

If there is such a solution, it is for the pacifist to discover it, declare it, and work for it. The others probably won't. They are too concerned with "defence of Western Democracy," and "Liberal tradition," or "freedom for all people, and the fight against Imperialism and Fascism," not realising that in the process we may be all exterminated unwittingly in an atomic age.

In the meantime, I suggest that we can command such an organisation as the World Federation of Democratic Youth to the young people of our own country, urging them to link up. For here is a meeting ground for all youth in all countries, ordinary people with the age-old ordinary hopes for security and freedom and life, and the courage and toughness of youth to act.

STRONG U.S. SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL CONSCIENCE CLAUSE

AN American appeal to the United Nations, signed by 429 persons, including Pearl S. Buck, Bishop Charles K. Gilbert, Arthur Garfield Hays, Professor Sidney Hook and Aldous Huxley, has urged that the proposed International Bill of Rights include an article recognising the right of conscientious objection to military service.

The petition, addressed to the Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations, reads as follows:

"The undersigned note with approval the effort that has been initiated by the War Resisters' International to bring before the public and the United Nations' Commission on Human Rights the need for recognising the right of refusal of military service in obedience to conscience. The statement of the War Resisters' International supporting this proposal reads in part:

"In the seventeenth century freedom of religious belief and worship was established; in the eighteenth century freedom of the press and of speech were recognised; and in the nineteenth century the right of association in the organised labour movement was secured.

"The present century sees a very intense struggle for the right of man to become international in his thought and action and in so doing to obey his individual conscience rather than the particular State in the matter of submitting to military service.

"If we take as an index the growth of resistance to military service which has taken place in the more democratic countries between the two world wars, it may be fairly judged that the impulse to resist military service has become a very important factor in the social and political evolution of the world, and that this resistance is a factor which cannot be ignored.

"We, the undersigned, therefore respectfully urge that an article be included in the proposed International Bill of Rights to read as follows:

THE RIGHT OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO REFUSE MILITARY SERVICE IN OBEDIENCE TO CONSCIENCE SHALL BE RECOGNISED.

PEACE NEWS

3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4

Stamford Hill 2262
Available from Newsagents and Bookstalls,
or direct from the above address.

POSTAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Gt. Britain. Abroad.
Three months 4s. 4d. 8s. 10d.
Six months 8s. 8d. 7s. 7d.
Twelve months 16s. 6d. 14s. 4d.

PEACE OR PACIFISM

SEVERAL friendly correspondents have called in question our interpretation of the slogan, "Wars will cease when men refuse to fight." So far from implying that wars would cease only when the world was populated by conscientious objectors, they have pointed out, this slogan was intended to remind people that no Government could embark on a war if it knew that a substantial minority of its subjects was pledged to non-co-operation.

Our correspondents are undoubtedly right. Though we ought to recognise that a country incapable of waging war would not be safe from the impact of war (neutrals have sometimes suffered the worst), their interpretation of the slogan is the correct one; and the PPU itself was founded with the idea of securing a million signatories to the Pledge.

Unfortunately, however, time has made nonsense of that ideal. It is all too obvious, now, that pacifism could avert war in this way on one condition only—that it was neither presented nor accepted as a means of averting war. For those who sign the Pledge with the object of averting war have no reason left for adhering to it, once war has actually begun. Theirs is the pacifism of the Russells, Roydens and Mumfords—the pacifism of a bluff which has been called.

But no pacifism that was not presented primarily as a means of averting war would ever make a wide appeal. The number of people prepared to face the consequences of their country's defeat by a power like Hitler's, once they have imagined what those consequences are, is infinitesimal. Therefore we must, as we have said, relegate "Wars will cease when men refuse to fight," with all that it implies, to the realm of dreams that daylight has dissipated.

It is sad that so many pacifists are still unwilling to do this, that long after cock-crow the ghost of the pre-war PPU still clanks its chains about England: for pacifism has everything to gain by a wholesale laying of delusions, and nothing to lose—but its chains. By admitting that it cannot avert war, pacifism will not be invalidated—precisely because its justification does lie elsewhere. On the contrary, such an admission will clear the decks for a re-examination, both of the propaganda appropriate to itself, and of policies designed to secure peace.

We ourselves believe that by unilateral disarmament this country might be saved from destruction, inevitable if it engages in war; we believe that by passive resistance it might secure its independence, in the event of totalitarian occupation. And this is a policy which non-pacifists might favour, as they have favoured it in India and Norway, and wherever war has been self-evidently impracticable.

But we believe also, as pacifists, that the more people renounce war on principle, and pledge themselves never to support or sanction another, even though that should mean death to themselves and their loved ones, the nearer the world will approximate to the Kingdom of God on earth. For the vicious circle of hatred and fear is broken wherever the sovereignty of conscience is affirmed—and that is the justification of the Pledge.

I RENOUNCE WAR AND I WILL NEVER SUPPORT OR SANCTION ANOTHER

* This pledge, signed by each member, is the basis of the Peace Pledge Union. Send YOUR pledge to

P.P.U. HEADQUARTERS

Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh St., W.C.1

Letters to the Editor

British Callousness in Germany

WHILST agreeing with Miss Vera Brittain that it is difficult to arrive at any one truth about Germany today (since however many Germans one talks with one still does not really get a cross-section of the millions) and agreeing also that many British are doing a good job of work out there—speaking for myself I would say this with special reference to the FRS and IVSP and other voluntary relief organisations—I cannot agree that they are not, in the main, callous.

I would say that the NAAFI family shops, packed with goods which may be bought without being marked on the ration books, bases of food in a desert of starvation, are a monstrous form of callousness.

As I came out of the big family shop in the British sector of Berlin with the correspondent's wife, with whom I had gone shopping, each of us with laden bags (I was not acquiring the food for myself, I might add), I wondered what the Germans standing on the kerb thought about it, and the driver of our Volkswagen . . . When I exclaimed about the abundance and variety of food in this store I was told, "Wait till you see the one in Dusseldorf!"

It has a certain significance that when I arrived in Hamburg with a bag of food—the regulation eleven pounds, a young woman who met me to escort me to the Press Club remarked, "You won't want that here!" That I might have brought it for anyone but myself simply had not occurred to her.

I would also suggest that the requisitioning of German homes for BAOR families is an abominable example of callousness. In very many instances the wretched owners were allowed to take away only their bedding. I know of a woman who humbly asked permission to go back to her old home and pick the fruit in the garden.

I would say that the mere existence of the special *Herrenvolk* trains and buses on which Miss Brittain no doubt travelled, as I did, exclusively for Allied use, whilst German trains are so overcrowded that people travel sitting on the buffers and clinging to the outsides (I saw this many times) is callousness, since no attempt is being made to improve transport for the German people—it is even expected that the whole miserable system will come to a standstill this winter.

The worst feature

LIKE Ingeborg Woodcock, I have recently visited the Ruhr and North Rhineland. I thought her article was fair and accurate, apart from one important error which I cannot allow to go uncorrected. Her 'first meal' is certainly not typical of the food eaten by the British personnel in Germany today.

There are a few, a very few, hotels and messes where food of this standard is to be found, but they do not in any way represent the rule. My experience was that the messes used by British Civilian officers, served meals which were on the whole slightly superior to those which can be obtained in a medium-priced (3/6d. lunch) restaurant in England. Fresh vegetables, fresh milk and coffee were far from plentiful.

Although there is certainly a vast gulf between the food level of the Germans and the British in Germany, I do not feel that any useful purpose is served by rash generalisation and exaggeration of the kind that your article offers. It spoils the validity of an otherwise excellent case.

I was, incidentally, surprised to find that Mrs. Woodcock makes no comment at all on one of the worst features of the life of the British community in Germany, the curse of ridiculously cheap and plentiful drink, around which social life is built.

A. K. HUDSON.

Tollgate Cottage,
Etchingham, Sussex.

Too strong for the U.S.

I HAVE been interested to read the discussion about the film "Frieda." I saw the film on board the Queen Elizabeth and although I felt it to be a bit crude in parts, yet on the whole I took it to be an honest attempt to present a truth

I would say that the light and warmth and comfort of press clubs, officers' clubs, the homes of Allied personnel, when there is no fuel for domestic consumption for the Germans, is callousness.

And there is a marked callousness in the attitude of the British generally—what Victor Gollancz has called the *Herrenvolk* attitude, and Fenner Brockway the *Poona* attitude. There are, of course, honourable exceptions, but it was not done (much) to say please or thank you to German personnel, car-drivers, waiters or office staff.

I would say that the good times enjoyed by Allied personnel indicate callousness. It is very easy to have a good time in starving and wretched Germany today, if you are so minded. You can be extremely gay there—if you've no objection to being gay in a graveyard. Drink is very cheap and plentiful, and demoralisation is all too easy.

At a press conference I attended, the Commander-in-Chief—Sir Sholto Douglas, supported by General Robertson and Mr. Hughes—made a statement that "the food situation in the Zone is no better than it was at the same time last year" (this statement was issued as a handout to the Press, so I am at liberty to quote it), and that "although the ration of the normal consumer is 1,550 calories per day, the average extent to which it is honoured is just under 1,000 calories per day," after which we adjourned for cocktails, then went in to a luncheon which even the press correspondents agreed was "very good." Luxury is a matter of definition, of course, but I would call luxury a mixed grill which includes eggs, and a meal which concludes as this did, with liqueurs . . . I would also call the whole affair a quite remarkable demonstration of callousness of a very high order. And I wondered

that we, as pacifists, are always trying to put across: the truth that men cannot be labelled as "Germans," and damned for it, but must be taken as they are found.

A young American couple (pacifists) sitting next to me in the cinema said afterwards, "Well, I doubt if a picture like that could be shown in America; not if the German wife were replaced by a Japanese, anyhow." They certainly took it as being intended to point a moral, and a not very palatable one to many people.

KATHLEEN LONSDALE.

121 Station Road,
West Drayton, Middx.

Detested shareholders

LIKE Mr. Rattray, I deplore "immature verdicts." For example, as I never suggested that I "detested" shareholders in my articles, his letter strikes me as incoherent and unnecessarily offensive.

But since your correspondent asks me how retired and infirm people are to live, I will answer him: they will, I hope, live (as they do at present) on the labour of others, but with one difference. In the ideal community the privilege of living in comfort and security would not be confined to that very small proportion of the aged and infirm who are numbered among the shareholders of today. Every human being would be assured to have the right to live in comfort; and those who were able to work would have the pleasure and privilege of contributing to the common store.

REGINALD REYNOLDS.

20 Jubilee Place,
Chelsea, S.W.3.

When wars will cease

IN a recent editorial you sought to enumerate the only three meanings that could logically attach to the slogan "Wars will cease when men

THOSE NOUGHTS

TO the ordinary man or woman numbers have little significance unless they can be related to, or compared with, things which are familiar.

To read that the cost of the United Nations organisation next year will be about \$39,000,000, or that the "gap" between Great Britain's national expenditure and income is, at the present rate £600,000,000 per annum, gives the impression of vast sums, but registers so little that a few minutes after reading it one is not certain how many noughts there were.

Perhaps (having never seen so much money), to read that the PPU's need is £5,000 a year and that the present gap is well over £1,000, means just as little to the average member.

But we all know what sixpence a week means in terms of visits to the pictures, cigarettes or other vices. Many of us know what a £1 note is like. And it is for these sums that HQ Fund appeals—unless, of course, you DO deal in thousands.

MAUD ROWNTREE.
Treasurer.

Contributions to HQ Fund since August 22: £1 2s. 6d. Year's total to date: £132 9s. 8d.

Donations to the fund should be sent, marked "Headquarters Fund," to the Treasurer at Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh St., W.C.1.

what the German waiters and waitresses thought . . .

On an American military train, I was in the dining-car at breakfast-time when we stopped at a derelict suburban station in the grey morning hours. The crowd on the station looked wan and miserable. I thought of their black bread and ersatz coffee breakfasts . . . I had just eaten a fresh grapefruit, and on my plate were hot waffles with dots of butter on the top, and syrup. I felt terribly ashamed, and could not eat. Perhaps others in the dining-car felt the same. Anyhow, they went on eating, whilst the Germans outside looked in, unspeaking, staring.

I would not say that the food in the Press-camps was luxurious—with the exception of that Press conference luncheon—but it was certainly more than adequate—a good deal more than most of us would get at home; certainly more than I would get, or even want.

It is terribly not done to be "emotional" about Germany and the Germans. I would submit that pity and anger are unavoidably emotional in content, and emotions of which one need not be ashamed. I certainly am not.

ETHEL MANNIN.

Oak Cottage,
Burghley Road,
London, S.W.19.

refuse to fight." More important, surely, than these is the meaning that was in fact intended, and to a large number of people, conveyed. The meaning intended was that when those in any one country refusing to fight became sufficiently numerous, that country becomes incapable of waging war, and cannot therefore suffer its impact.

H. JUPP.

144 Beaufort Road,
Bournemouth.

A desperate need

IN the course of my service work I have come across a young man (Eurasian) aged 29, who is suffering from a paralytic illness, for which he has been receiving hospital treatment. His doctor has now recommended that he undertakes some form of active outdoor employment which will involve the use of his arms, such as gardening, or doing odd jobs.

He is of a pleasant disposition, intelligent, and anxious to be doing something worth while. It is very necessary that he should be engaged with someone who will make allowances for his disability, and take a personal interest in him. His home circumstances are very unfavourable, and he would go to any part of the country. He is not concerned about remuneration, and would willingly accept a basis of maintenance plus pocket-money.

This desperate human need offers an opportunity for constructive pacifist service. If any reader is interested, I would be glad to give him further information.

Unless something can be done soon for this man, there is every likelihood that his condition will rapidly deteriorate, but timely assistance can avert such a tragic situation.

ELWYN H. THOMAS.

56 Grove Street,
Liverpool, 7.

Indonesian Independence TURIN

a Myth?

AN Australian pacifist, Mr. J. L. Ward, who has been in the Dutch East Indies for the past eight months, throws some interesting sidelights on the Indonesian situation in a recent letter to Tony Bishop, Editor of the Australian Peacemaker.

He declares that there is no genuine will to independence among the Indonesians and that the resulting chaos has meant the death of two million Madonese and Sudanese in the past six months.

"I am firmly convinced that Indonesian independence is a hopeless myth—at least for years," he writes.

Mr. Ward stresses the great differences that exist between the inhabitants of Java, Sumatra, and Celebes and asserts that they are virtually different countries, while they have common economic interest it is quite untrue that they have a common political outlook.

Few large cities

"There are not many large cities in Indonesia," he writes. "The Dutch have not industrialised the Indies much at all—a little in Java, very little in Sumatra and almost not at all in the Celebes. Rubber, copra, and teak plantations and oil in Borneo give a terrific trade—or did give—in primary products and the beauty of this type of trading is that it interferes least with the manner of living of the natives and yet provides a reserve of income for those who want a different existence from the native one—or in periods when for some reason natural resources for native existence are reduced.

"It doesn't break up native civilisation as for instance large scale industrialisation and colonisation à la Britain. None of that terrific over-crowding into huge cities as in India.

"This means that in Celebes and Sumatra and very largely in Java the native life hasn't been changed much and that the majority except in Java seldom or never contact white settlers and have their own civilisation apart. This is pretty highly developed and, according to a geologist who spends years in the hinterland, their life is a happy one with strong religious and psychological satisfaction possible, although there are a few cruel customs; the position of women by our standard is that of almost a slave, and there is seasonal fluctuation in the general level of prosperity.

"The Dutch Government have never—I'm told and I believe—interfered much in this. Not too much attempt has been made to build schools or abolish customs unpalatable to them. They have provided—often rather summary—a system of justice and it seems this has been accepted by the natives as being in keeping with their own customs.

"What is a crime in India is not so much so in Indonesia. Generally the huge majority of Indonesians are, or were, ignorant, unorganised, loosely ruled and happy. From who I saw and hear of Dutch methods they were likely to remain so. Is this bad government? I'm not prepared to say so.

"The idea then that there is an 'Indonesian' wish for independence is silly, I think. In the cities of Java and Sumatra there is certainly a fair amount of anti-Dutch feeling—possibly heightened by the Chinese who are the real rulers—the purse holders

for the peasantry and coolie class. They control prices and to a fair extent standards of living...

"But the whole thing is that there is no general will to independence. Perhaps a half million or perhaps two million out of 70-80 million—for most of these and for all the rest, Independence has meant or will mean a much less pleasant life than before. The resulting chaos so far has, according to the pro-Indonesian 'Dutch-Indonesian Association' meant the death from under-nourishment of two million Madonese and Sudanese in the last six months.

"In Batavia they streamed to the city from the Republican occupied out-posts—an endless string of self-propelled corpses almost—quite hideous. They sleep in the streets and scabble for rice in the dirt and they stink and are covered with sores or have distended pulp-like bellies. You can't imagine how ugly it is. They are free Indonesians—with none of them any idea what it's all about. Perhaps they blame the Dutch—perhaps they blame God—equally unfairly.

Fruits of independence

"If the tree is to be judged by its fruits, as I think it must be in politics, then independence is merry hell. You can say, and not quite unfairly, that the Dutch might be accentuating this disorder to make the difference between their own and self-government more plain but that doesn't account for most of it. The unreliability of a newly politically interested minority—especially of Oriental outlook—is pretty plain.

"In the Celebes the Indonesian authorities have from the first cooperated with the Dutch—they emphatically don't want the political domination of the Javanese politicians, and here in Celebes conditions are enormously better than in Java or Sumatra.

"What I fear most is that the Indonesian politicians in Java at least, being young and socialist minded will try and outwestern the Westerners in industrialism and westernising Indonesia. This I feel would be a frightful gaffe. I'm pretty sure that almost the only place left in the world where the good life is possible is Indonesia. A strong native culture, a most productive self sufficient fertile area with centuries old background of inter-island trade, if left alone might develop in time into a really great community. But if it is rushed into modernism, it'll be the last spot gone—the last submergence of values other than our bastard brittle ones.

The Dutch view

"And then the position in Holland. It is terribly unfair of 'our great commonwealth'—and Britain and U.S.A. to expect Holland to make the enormous sacrifice that would be involved in getting out of Indonesia. I've talked to Dutchmen who see it this way—that their wives and kids may have to live at the level of Yugoslav peasants if Holland loses the wealth of the Indies—that's hard to gainsay for us who stand to lose nothing.

"Really I think the Dutch offer of Independence under the Dutch Crown is a fairly reasonable one. At the worst—one of mutual advantage with the balance in favour of Holland.

"The immediate military situation I think was a mistake. They have negotiated so long that a bit longer wouldn't hurt and there seemed to be a chance of settlement. But after two years of duckshoving and frustration the irritation of the Netherlands Government in the Indies is understandable—not therefore excusable though. It will arouse just so much more resentment and cause so much more unmerited suffering and not make the final situation clearer."

—The fantastic and wonderful

THE lights which lit the endless Portici came twinkling up to meet us as we stood on the heights of Monte Cappucini this last evening of our stay in wonderful, fantastic Turin. The tide of illumination was at its full as our gaze swept over the city and came to rest on the dusky ranges of the Grajische and Cottische Alpen. They made a sombre picture like giant watch dogs shaped in mountain form as they brooded over the plains below.

My thoughts chased back to the words uttered by Sir Edward Grey those thirty-three years ago—"The lights of Europe are fast being extinguished." During the period of that first world war their truth became apparent, but it was not until some twenty years later that the meaning became revealed in a fuller measure and more literal sense.

Rumours of war

WHAT of the future? One is forced to be realistic and to hope that the war between America and Russia will not come to pass. The considered opinion of most thinking Italians and the most informed Swiss is that it is inevitable within a few years. There are many signs which point the way.

In Italy there are thousands of Americans in civilian clothes—perhaps only a straw in the wind? In the meantime the "Iron Curtain" moves steadily up and may soon drop to encompass the Italian people within its vile sphere, for without doubt Communism gains way.

The elimination of the middle-class proceeds relentlessly; how can it be otherwise when a worker in the Fiat factory earns in a day more than a university professor, a medical specialist or a judge receives in a week?

Poverty and plenty

IT would be foolhardy to attempt an analysis of the present situation in Italy, but perhaps it would be fairly correct to term it organised anarchy. There is a rationing system which does not operate because there is not enough food to go round.

The poverty of the people is reflected in the abundant display of every kind of merchandise, including food, confectionery and fruits, which impels you to stop and gaze with astonished eyes in every shop window. You can buy anything you desire providing you have the money!

The "black-market" of Italy is easy to find—it is the ordinary shopping centre in every town and city! Only those who deal in the "black-market" can afford, with few exceptions, to patronise the shops, for they are the only ones who have the means to do so.

My amazement was apparent when I was directed from a tobacconist (who didn't sell cigarettes!) to a little stand round the corner where, openly displayed on a small table resting on the pavement, were the cigarettes I wished to acquire—at a price. They took pride of place alongside the lottery tickets for sale on many similar booths throughout the city.

Later the same evening in some other part of Turin we saw "black-market" on a larger scale—the pavements lined with little heaps of tobacco, cigarettes and, I deem to guess, other drugs of a more harmful kind.

We visited a famous casino (some sixty miles from Turin)—but such establishments are forbidden by Italian law. The owner was instructed to close this place but strongly objected. Well advertised and patronised, he carries on unhindered and in an open way to the benefit of himself and financial detriment of his clients.

Fantasy reached its extreme height when later, in another city, we

were advised in friendly fashion by the police officials to change our money in the "Black Market." In return for this "tip" we were asked to send them picture postcards on our arrival back in England!

This information was, however, not sound, for apart from any twinge of conscience we were told on repeating this to an Italian friend that we should do better at the bank. In company with him we were introduced to a relative working in the Banca di Roma and received the glad tidings that if we presented our travellers cheque on the morrow we should receive 2,000 lire to the pound.

It seemed we were doomed to disappointment for the cashier offered only 1,900 the following day. We argued and he raised the exchange value to 1,950 and refused to go beyond this figure. By now I had become a hardened "black-marketeer" and crossing the marble floor to another counter I did business with a less avaricious official who gave me the full 2,000 lire to the pound!

The ex-PoWs

BUT it is not on these things I wish to dwell. For those five long but quickly passed days in Italy offered more lasting memories.

We saw the little church where Piero's mother went every day to pray to the Madonna for the safe return of her much loved son. Her supplications were answered when she heard for the first time during twelve endless months that he was safe and well a prisoner of war in British hands in North Africa. What joy that must have brought and what comfort she gained in her lonely vigil pending his repatriation, to know that he had been sent to England and could visit every evening an English home.

We did not realise the full extent of her consolation until these past few days we experienced the overwhelming gratitude of a mother whose son had safely returned. Forever in our memory remains the charm of that welcome and hospitality, which awaited our arrival outside their beautiful country house, situated in quaint mediaeval Chiusa di Peso. We were introduced to a family straight from a chapter of one of Tolstoy's books.

If there be any doubt in the minds of those who have shown kindness and understanding to the PoWs within our midst, let them take heart and believe that the "cup of water" offered in the name of friendship and humanity will never be forgotten, and will forge another link in the long chain of human relationship between peoples of different races.

The quiet, out-of-the-way places hold many surprises in this direction. The priest who showed us round the Certosa di Peso Monastery was full of gratitude and admiration for the kindly treatment he had received at British hands whilst a Prisoner of War. We were childishly pleased to hear that he knew the village in which we lived, having been stationed at a large Repatriation Camp (as a Staff Padre) only five miles from our English home. And if you still doubt?

I could recount many an interesting experience with tram conductors, waiters and others who felt a strong bond of friendship for British people, because we had "not passed by on the other side."

In Switzerland, many folk have told me that the reason Hitler didn't invade their country was through the intervention of Mussolini, who cherished lasting good-will towards that country, because at one time he received much kindness from the Swiss people. Whether true or not, it is a comforting thought in which to seek repose. Good-night, and pleasant dreams!

Peace News is open for the expression of all points of view relevant to pacifism. Articles in it, whether signed or unsigned, do not necessarily represent the policy of the Peace Pledge Union, of which it is the weekly organ. Nor does the acceptance of advertisements imply any endorsement of, or PPU connexion with, the matter advertised.

SUSSEX IN SEPTEMBER

SPEND YOUR HOLIDAYS AT

Royhill Holiday Centre
BLACKBOYS, SUSSEX.

93 acres; beautiful situation; splendid fellowship.

Three guineas per week.

Write Rev. Arthur Peacock,
Royhill, Blackboys, Sussex.

FoR Annual Conference

"USA MORE AFRAID THAN EVER"

THOUGH the United States have all the advantages in relation to the use of atomic bombs, her people are more afraid of potential enemies than they have ever been before.

This was the view expressed by the Rev. A. J. Muste, secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation in the United States, when he addressed the annual conference of the Fellowship of Reconciliation at Bryanston School, Dorset, which was held from August 16–22.

Mr. Muste said that American political leaders were speaking about Russia in terms which they did not use about Germany and Japan even in 1941. The attitude of Russia could not be properly appreciated unless one realised that American air squadrons were stationed in Germany, Korea and Japan and that an American fleet was in the eastern Mediterranean. Seventy-five per cent. of the money being spent on physical scientific research in the United States was provided by the military authorities. The President was in direct touch with the military chiefs over the heads of the civil government in precisely the same way that the Emperor of Japan had

been under the direct influence of the Japanese military leaders.

The circumstances are such that a heavy responsibility lies upon the Christian Church for the only practical solution of the international problem is that the United States should act on Christian principles, sharing her wealth with the rest of the world and forswearing war. If it was objected that this would involve the staking of her national existence upon a gamble one could only reply that the same objection applied with equal force to her preparation for war.

The lecturers

The chairman of the conference was the Rev. Alan Knott, B.Sc., associate minister of Carr's Lane Church, Birmingham, and in addition to Mr. Muste, the lecturers were the Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Nuttall, M.A., Lecturer in Church History at New College, London, the Rev. Claud M. Colman, M.A., B.Litt., minister of the King's Weigh House Church, London. The general subject of the conference was "The Holy Spirit and ourselves."

Dr. Nuttall gave five lectures under the titles: "The Gift of the Spirit"; "The Power of the Spirit"; "The Character of the Spirit"; "The Guidance of the Spirit"; "The Discipline

Work Camps for China Students

WHAT for China, is a new method of student relief is being tried this summer by the National Student Relief Committee, sponsored by the YWCA and the YMCA. This committee, whose funds come

of the Spirit." He began with the emphasis laid throughout the Bible upon God's giving of Himself, His Holy Spirit, to men. This gift always conferred power upon the recipient. In the Old Testament this power was an abnormality in men's experience, and both in the Old Testament and in the Gospels the verbs relating to the activity of the Holy Spirit are all strong and violent. It was in his insight into the character of the Holy Spirit that St. Paul made his greatest contribution to Christian thought. For by his equating of the Holy Spirit with the Spirit of Jesus he delivered the former concept from the sense of abnormality and violence, and filled it with personality. This radical change naturally carried with it the thought that the guidance of the Holy Spirit, while still to be known occasionally through sudden impulse and intuition, would usually be experienced through the ordinary, familiar working of reason and conscience. But reason and conscience are both in need of constant education. Only the man who spends much regular time in reading his Bible, in meditation upon the nature and ways of God, and in prayer, will be open to the continual and familiar guidance and inspiration of God's Holy Spirit.

The Rev. Claud Colman, gave four lectures entitled "The Spirit and the Word"; "The Spiritual Freedom"; "The Spirit and the Future"; "The Spiritual Community." He dealt with the activity of the Holy Spirit in the lives of individuals and, through men and women, in the sphere of contemporary public affairs.

Visitors from France, Germany, Austria, South Africa and the United States were present at the conference. An interesting feature of the attendance was the number of family parties which it included.

from the World Student Service Fund and the United Services to China, plans its relief programme to assist the largest possible number of Chinese students effectively in an effort to help the development of students' leadership. This summer the new plan of work scholarships is being tried, modelled on the work camp movement currently popular in the United States and Europe.

The direction of this new summer programme has been largely assigned to Kay H. Beach, of the FSU, loaned to the NSRC for this purpose. During the past two months, Mr. Beach has been planning and setting up this programme on campuses all over China. Special work projects in co-operation with established social welfare agencies have been arranged under the leadership and supervision of these agencies. It is expected that the participating students will benefit financially and educationally from their summer work.

Each student will receive a sum of money applicable to their university expenses next autumn, in addition to summer maintenance costs. In addition, the projects are designed to be of an educational nature, so that the experience for all of the students will be rewarding. The aspect of students working and living together as they study and contribute to the needs of the people, is regarded as one of the most important rewards to be gained by the participants.

In order that Mr. Beach may investigate the effectiveness of this new programme his loan to the NSRC has been extended for the summer months during the period of the work project, so that he may tour the various campuses in China, and see the programme in action. It is expected that a report will be issued at the end of the summer programme which will prove of great interest, not only to those concerned with Chinese education and student welfare, but also to those interested in the work camp movement.

FEDERALISTS ON THE PEACE PATH

"I wish you all success. Two years ago I said: 'The idea of world government must be carefully nursed in order that the right atmosphere may be created. It is not something which can be imposed from the top, but must be the result of growth. Such growth your movement is designed to foster.'

THIS message from Mr. Ernest Bevin, British Foreign Secretary, was among those read out at the opening of the first Congress of the World Movement for World Federal Government held at Montreux, Switzerland, during August.

300 delegates from 21 countries worked all through the sweltering days and far into the nights to hammer out a policy, and to create a world organisation to implement it.

The debates were not without their dramatic moments and crises; one sensed that some new force was painfully finding its way into the world. A "Declaration of Montreux" was ultimately agreed *nem con.* It runs in essence:—

"The United Nations, as at present constituted, is powerless to stop the drift to war.

"The choice lies not between free enterprise and planned economy, nor between Capitalism and Communism, but between Federalism and power-politics.

FREEDOM FROM WAR

"Mankind can free itself forever from war only through the establishment of a world federation, based on:

1. Universal membership—open to all peoples and nations.
2. Transfer to the world federal government such legislative, executive and judicial powers as relate to world affairs.
3. Enforcement of world law directly on the individual.
4. Creation of supra-national armed forces capable of guaranteeing the security of the world federation. Disarmament of member-nations to the level of their internal policing requirements.
5. Control by the world federal government of atomic development and the like.
6. Power to raise adequate revenues directly and independently of state taxes."

The declaration also approved a plan submitted by the British Parliamentary Committee of the Crusade for World Government, and backed by about 100 British M.P.s.

Henry Usborne, M.P., the Hon. General Secretary of the Committee, stated:—

"We shall unite the world, not by conquest, but by consent; not by argu-

HUMILIATION AND REPENTANCE

"Weep for yourselves." —Luke xxiii.28

A SCENE of tragic sorrow seldom fails to stir feelings of pity in the hearts of the witness. So was it with these women who watched Jesus, tried and condemned, being hurried to a terrible death. Even the cross upon which He would presently suffer, another had been compelled to carry for Him. Sad, indeed was it, that one so young, whose life had been spent in loving thought and service for others, should have to meet so violent an end.

The root of this shameful deed lay in the nation's own wrong understanding of the nature and purpose of God. Excessive pride in their historical descent, and the place of special privilege they had filled, all too frequently prevented the people of Jesus' day from grasping the real import and significance of their religious faith. Pedigree, and a slavish servitude to outworn ideas had transformed a living consciousness of God into a stereotyped conformity to custom.

Had the people but understood the meaning of religion, but learned the meaning of the words "I will have mercy and not sacrifice," Jesus would have been compelled neither to utter His lament over Jerusalem, nor to offer this gentle rebuke to those who followed Him to the Cross.

"Weep for yourselves." How urgently necessary was this word. For Jesus Himself, the need for pity did not exist. If to Jesus' death on the cross was something shameful, Jesus knew full well that for Him it was a throne of triumph, a glorious crown to a life of service and complete surrender to His Father's will. No need was there to shed tears for Him. "Reserve your sorrow for yourselves," He cried; "You are the ones to be pitied, because you know not the things that make for your peace."

DO not such words bear upon them something of modern significance? Was Israel alone in dis-

obeying the divine injunction and bringing disaster upon itself? Surely not. If the present state of our nation and of the world possesses any meaning at all, it is that privilege carries its own corresponding responsibility, while excessive boastfulness regarding past achievement may well be the precursor of dire calamity.

How frequently has it happened that movements which were begun with the best motives and sincerest intentions, at later stages have failed to fulfil the high hopes that marked their early success. In this common failing Christianity can lay no claim to being an exception. Indeed, some would not hesitate to assert that it supplies the outstanding example of a false and discredited hope; that by the misrepresentation and mistaken ideas of many of its adherents, it has forfeited its claim to the place of final authority in human thought and conduct.

Are Christ's laws and way of life being acknowledged and acted upon today as the recognised standard in all matters relating to human well-being? If there is no supernatural standard of judgment, good and evil become relative terms; man is a law to himself. Sadly, and with shame must it be confessed that no such Standard is recognised.

Were Jesus to appear among men again, would He see on the widespread ravages of war, the destructive war of atomic power, the hates and fears that nations entertain towards one another, the national issue and consequence of His teaching?

This tragic situation is the result very largely of Christianity's over-readiness to allow itself to become a tool in the hands of the temporal power. No greater proof of this servitude is to be found than the invidious position in which the Church has found itself during recent years.

Nor is the Church's guilt solely of recent origin. For too long has it failed to denounce a social and economic system which all too plainly was making war, through world-wide dissatisfaction, inevitable.

MERE theorizing, especially in the case of religion, avails little. People like to see ideas at work, and know what they are capable of achieving. The great need of our time is a Christian Revolution. The early Christians "turned the world upside down," because first of all, they themselves had undergone a tremendous transformation.

With the present state of the world, everyone is only too familiar. It is being shaken to the very centre by reason of the moral, political and economic confusion which prevails. So obsessed has man become by his slavish faith in human power, his appears to be completely oblivious of the fact that at his disposal are resources capable of accomplishing the seemingly impossible. The impact of the Christian message upon human life ought to be the most revolutionary happening imaginable.

The choice confronting us at the present time is between a pagan-materialistic philosophy, finding its inspiration in an indestructible belief in the sufficiency of man to secure his own political and economic salvation, and the bringing into being of a truly Christian order, dependent wholly upon an implicit faith in the power and final triumph of spiritual ideals.

The problem is not technical; it is definitely and essentially spiritual. When the organic relationship of the Christian faith with society is rightly understood, it will be seen that spiritual power is the only dynamic capable of creating a new world. From a futile belief in man's ability to achieve his lasting good, there must be a change-over to a full acknowledgement of the divine initiative as the sole means of reaching such a goal. For this humiliation and repentance are primary pre-requisites.

MUSIC & DRAMA

Edited by ROGER PAGE

"PEACE IN OUR TIME"

THERE can be no play in London at the present time of more immediate and intimate interest to pacifists, as such, than Noel Coward's "Peace in Our Time" (at the Lyric Theatre). It is a picture of what might have happened if the Battle of Britain had been lost and the Germans had added us to their list of occupied countries. It is not an overdrawn picture, in my opinion. Mr. Coward has simply observed what did, in fact, happen in occupied Europe and applied it, with modifications, to Britain. The result, within its limitations, is probably as near the hypothetical truth as anyone will get.

The Germans begin with a "good behaviour" policy and life goes on much the same as before, for most people. "The Shy Gazelle," at any rate, a London public-house in which the entire action of the play takes place, never closes its doors, though the quality of the drink it can supply progressively deteriorates. Some people fraternise heartily with the Germans, some remain diplomatically "neutral," and some uncompromisingly hostile. (There is a passing reference to Jews and Communists which suggests that things may not be pleasant for them.) And then, of course, the inevitable underground movement starts, backed by the Free British, the Dominions, and America, encouraged and informed by a secret radio. The Germans become edgy and suspicious, arrest increasing numbers of people for "questioning," commit some to concentration-camps, increase street-corner guards and spies, and so on and so on. In May, 1945, England is invaded by an Allied Force and liberated.

Mr. Coward's Cockneys

Mr. Coward is too clever a dramatist not to make his play exciting; it has a very taut beginning and a very taut ending, but there are some slack periods in between when we sit waiting for developments. And Mr. Coward is not above being conventional. His perpetually squabbling Cockney couple quote Shakespeare in saloon bars when on the verge of losing their temper? That particular scene when the collaborating editor of a "progressive" weekly is literally brought to his knees by two slaps on the face from an infuriated girl is an effective scene—but, one feels, a

trifle artificial. And so, most certainly, is the moral indignation of the publican who tells the influential German that an Englishman wouldn't have offered illicit supplies of gin. Believe it or not, this palpably hypocritical retort was actually applauded—with Soho just round the corner!

Questions for pacifists

Watching "Peace in Our Time," the pacifist will inevitably find himself wondering where he would have stood, in the circumstances envisaged. Would actual contact with an occupying force have changed us? Would we have collaborated, or been able to maintain an academic detachment? Would passive resistance have worked? These are questions which the individual pacifist must answer for himself. We should remember, I think, that in this country none of us was put to the supreme test, that not many of us suffered as we should (at least in theory) have been prepared to suffer, and that we owe something (even though the debt was unwillingly incurred) to those who did not agree with our views and went out to die for theirs.

True to life

"Peace in Our Time" is not by any means a profound play; it does not pretend to be a serious study of what occupation by an enemy force can mean, and how it can be met by other than its own weapons (one could hardly expect that). It is a melodrama, but a very convincing one, and one which seems so true to the "visible and audible surfaces" of the life it imagines that one cannot help being provoked into further and more personal speculation.

The saloon-bar setting is correct, so far as my knowledge goes, down to the last ash-tray, and the play is extremely well acted by every one in the very large cast.

W. H. GELDER.

"OPERATION OLIVE BRANCH"

"THEATRE Workshop" (now playing in the Central Library Theatre, Manchester) continue their programme of original plays with a new production, "Operation Olive Branch," by Ewan MacColl (readers may recall his previous bombshell, "Uranium 235").

"Operation Olive Branch" is a highly satirical adaptation of Aristophanes' "Lysistrata," that immortal comedy of the "impregnable women" of Greece who, weary of the miseries of inter-necine wars, occupied the Athenian Citadel and refused to emerge from their self-imposed celibacy until their men-folk made peace.

The subject requires great skill and delicacy of treatment if it is not to degenerate into slapstick. Mr. Eric Linklater has previously tackled it with gusto in the form of a novel. Mr. MacColl's new version is more serious in intention, but in execution it is not quite one hundred per cent. effective.

Team work

The fault is not with the acting, which was adequate through the whole team (and this company is a team); some of the women, indeed, were more than adequate, notably the devastating Calonice of Rosalie Williams. Miss Joan Littlewood's production, as one might expect from the founder of the workshop experiment, had the right pace and drive; although it struck me that there was a little too much movement, and not enough purposive action (this, doubtless, was a fault in the play). The costumes and effects generally were particularly effective.

And yet, in spite of all the aid that hard work and enthusiasm could give it, the play somehow failed to grip. Perhaps inevitably, it was lacking in conflict: the women chattered amusingly about the men, and the men made poetic moan about the women, but this did not make up for the lack of direct impact. In this situation, it is impossible to establish the relationships out of which drama grows. The author must therefore achieve his effects by implication; the audience must be made to visualise what it cannot see on the stage, by what is left out as much as by what is put in. But Mr. MacColl was so determined to drive home his message that he talked too much; talked at his audience instead of inviting them to recognise the truth for themselves.

This is not to decry the importance of the message: this author has honesty, originality and passionate sincerity. He also has a heart, in the right place. When he has learned to credit his audience with an equal capacity for appreciation, he may well become a very good playwright indeed.

MARGARET TIMS.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

LATEST TIME for copy: Monday before publication.

TERMS: Cash with order, 3d. per word, minimum 2s. 6d. (Box. No. 6d. extra). Please don't send stamps in payment, except for odd pence. Maximum length: 60 words. Address for Box No. replies: Peace News, 3 Blackstock Rd., N.4.

When corresponding with PN about an advertisement, quote its first words, classification, and date.

We reserve the right to hold over advertisements and to limit the frequency of continuing advertisements.

MEETINGS, &c.

LONDON AREA Council and Members' Meeting, Dick Sheppard House, Sept. 7, 3 p.m. Discussion—Resignation of Sponsors: the PPU and Anti-Semitism.

WEIGH HOUSE CHURCH, Duke St., W.1. Bond St. Tube. "The Gospel of Peace!" Sun. evenings at 6.30. Social hr. follows.

ACCOMMODATION

PACIFIST COUPLE, wishing to marry, urgently requ. acmdtn. (flat or rms.) in London area. Please! Box 752.

HOUSE REQU. for family of four. Accessible to Highbury, Mabel Eyles, 2 Aberdeen Park, Highbury, N.5. CAN0nbury 3862.

TO LET, Chittens, furn. camping buts, also caravan. Murray, Green End, Radnage, Bucks.

LAKE DISTRICT. "Beck Allans" and "Rothay Bank," Grasmere. Attractive Guest Houses for strenuous or restful holidays. First class vegetarian diet. Dormitory accommodation at special rates. Enquiries to: Isabel James at Beck Allans. Tel.: Grasmere 129.

DERBYSHIRE HILLS. Food Reform Vegetarian Guest House for happy holidays or restful recuperation: all modern comforts. A. and K. S. Ludlow, The Briars, Crich, Matlock. (Station: Ambergate. Tel.: Ambergate 44).

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

TO LET. Two-berth furn. holiday caravan. Possibly sleep extra. Main water. Page, Godmanstone, Dorchester.

EDUCATIONAL

FREE DISCUSSION course in Fundamental Economics and Social Philosophy. A non-party inquiry into the solution of social problems. Mondays 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Next ten-week session begins Sept. 22. Write: Discussion Course, 4 Gt. Smith St., S.W.1.

HESITANT SPEAKERS and writers specially helped. Lessons (correspondence or visit) 5s. Dorothy Matthews, B.A. 32 Primrose Hill Road, London, N.W.3. PRImrose 5686.

ENTERTAINMENTS

"MAGNIFICENT STUFF," said Press of Emyln Williams' "Light of Heart." "Magnificent performance" you will say of North London Players presentation, White Hart Lane (New) School, Wood Green, Sept. 13, 7 p.m. (5 minutes Tube). 4s. 3s., 2s., from Harby, 74 Ingleton Rd., N.18. At half on night.

MUSIC

ACCORDIONS BOUGHT, sold and part exchanged. Good selection latest models, all makes and sizes. Repairs, etc. Estd. 20 yrs. Simple easy terms. Freedman, 53 Vernon Rd., Bow, E.3. Phone: ADV. 2367.

LAND

FRUIT AND market gardening land, 3 acres, South Coast. Rent mod. Ingoing £300 (actual cost). Tractor, tools, shed, etc. Illness sole cause of release. Might consider partner. Apply in the first instance to CBCO, Endleigh St., W.C.1.

ECONOMY LABELS at half price 1 2s. for 200 (including postage). These labels are excellent publicity for PN and PPU, but each reqs. a minor alteration to correct price of PN. 25% discount on 1000 lots. Peace News Ltd., 3 Blackstock Rd., London, N.4.

REBILEX MUST buy typewriters. We arrange advertisements and pay good commissions to any contacts in provinces who will forward replies. Full details from Rebilex Typewriter Co. Ltd., 561 London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.

LITERATURE, &c.

YOUR MAGAZINE for Sept. is now available. Every member needs PPU Journal, 1s. 8d. sub. to the end of the year, 5d. ea. issue (post free). From Housmans, PPU or Peace News 3 Blackstock Rd., London, N.4.

QUAKERISM. Information and Literature respecting the Faith and Practice of the Religious Society of Friends, free on application to the Friends' Home Service Committee, Friends' House, Euston Rd., London.

PERSONAL

£100 URGENTLY needed to help forward work of natural healing. Box 755.

C.O. 27, seeks pen friend opposite sex. Interests: cycling and outdoor activities. Box 753.

MUSIC STUDENT would store piano. Unable practice. Grateful for help. Box 751.

YOUNG COUPLE desire contact others Bristol area. Keen—music, poetry, philosophy, gardening. Ancient wisdom. Box 750.

ASTROLOGY. A free Test Horoscope. Helpful advice and guidance. Send Birthdate, stamped-addressed envelope. The Psycho-Success Institute (A.28), 64 Aldermanbury, London, E.C.2.

MARRIAGE

WATERS—ROBINSON. On Aug. 6 1947, at Farnworth, Widnes, Norman Raishleigh Waters, of Southampton, Lancs, N.B.—Limited parcels health foods posted to isolated vegetarians. Cash with order; open cheque if desired.

SITUATIONS VACANT

C.O. FIVE yrs. gen. farm wk. one yr. market gdn., seeks any kind of interesting wk. and to live with congenial people. Box 754.

WORKERS URGENTLY reqd. for experimental social wk. under Friends Cttee. Vacancies for men and women care-workers and cook-housekeeper. Residential maintenance with cash allowances. Further particulars from Sec., Friends Service Centre, 161 Netherfield Rd., Liverpool 5.

EXPANDING CITY Firm with Christian ideals reqs. competent young man as shthnd. typist. Applicants should be keen to progress; excellent prospects of interesting commercial career for those of suitable character and initiative. Commencing sal. according to shthnd. typing speeds, probably £4 10s. 0d. weekly at age 19; higher for older man. Write full details to Box 748.

SITUATIONS AND WORK WANTED

EX-LAND GIRL seeks interesting wk. Bristol-Weston area. Office, farm, domestic, etc. Keen children people. Box 749.

FIRST CLASS duplicating: reports, bulletins, memoranda, etc. Typewriting. Mabel Eyles, 2 Aberdeen Park, Highbury, N.5. CAN0nbury 3862.

MISCELLANEOUS

REGINALD BAILEY, assisted by Daisy E. Bailey. Naturopath, Osteopath, Psychiatrist and Bates System for eyes. 134, Hoppers Road, Winchmore Hill, N.21. Palmers Green 7868. By appointment.

AUTHORS' TYPEWRITING undertaken. Preference for possibility of regular wk. Box 756.

A WORD to the ailing. Do not despair. Start today. Send for two 20-page booklets of encouraging life-conserving information about Garlic, which comes nearer to a universal remedy than anything given by Nature for the use of man. Send stamps 5d. to Alysal Company, Fairlight, Sussex.

A GOOD life insurance is now the best investment. Fire and motor business at competitive rates. House purchase. R. C. Horwood, Turvey, Bedford.

FRIENDS RELIEF SERVICE GETS £10,000

FRIENDS Relief Service has recently received an anonymous gift of £10,000 to be spent on food for relief in Poland and the British Zones of Germany and Austria. Friends Relief Service is a Quaker organisation which has sent food to the value of nearly £160,000 to eight European countries in the past two years; and this donation comes most opportunely at a time when, on the one hand, their funds are exhausted, and, on the other, a considerable quantity of food is available for purchase. Such food is bought with the approval of the Ministry of Food from surpluses too small to affect the home ration, but suitable for the relief of special cases of malnutrition and tuberculosis in the famine-stricken parts of Europe.



WANTED

Books or Periodicals on Peace and Peace movements published before 1900

Send details, including exact wording on title page, and price required to
HOUSMANS
 124 Shaftesbury Avenue,
 LONDON, W.1.

Is Britain Peace-Loving?

FRANK HANCOCK

(Ex-Labour Candidate, Salisbury, Lewes and Monmouth)

contrasts our pre-war policy with our post-war protestations in

"Were We Prepared?"

a valuable documentary pamphlet in the PN Series
PRICE 2d. (postage 1d. extra)
 or 1s. 10d. dozen post free

PPU, HOUSMANS, PEACE NEWS,
 3 BLACKSTOCK RD., LONDON N.4.

The crisis and conscription

COMMENTARY CONTINUED

or whether they are going to blunder on blindly without any clear plan or policy. It is quite evident from the figures that the total estimated saving from the cuts—£228 million a year, in addition to the £100 million cuts announced in July—will only go a small part of the way to bridging the gap of £600 million between our imports and exports.

The biggest bill

MANY people think the biggest and most effective cuts of all could be made in the Armed Forces, on which the estimated expenditure in the current year is at the monstrous rate of £900,000,000." Mr. A. J. Cummings declares in the *News Chronicle* (Aug. 26). "Cut that ruthlessly by half and we shall have gone a long way towards meeting the emergency." That this has not been done is due to the fact that the Government is still clinging to the ideal of maintaining Britain as a first-class military power. Mr. Bellinger, Secretary of State for War, is reported to have told a British Legion rally that "it would be an error of the first magnitude to cut down the armed forces to a level at which they would be impotent to maintain Britain's prestige and influence in world affairs."

Mr. Cummings pertinently asks: "In our present economic crisis how long could we hope to sustain a war, large or small, in any part of the world, even with a million men and the vast paraphernalia that goes with them?" He goes on to point out that it would be futile for a bankrupt nation to prate about its prestige and influence. "National solvency," he asserts, "is our first defence priority. It will win for Britain more prestige and influence and a greater expansion of trade than all the armies, navies and bombers Mr. Bellinger's heated imagination can conjure."

The choice before us

A SIMILAR point of view has found expression in a most unexpected quarter. In a recent leading article (Aug. 22), the *Evening Standard* declared:

"Now that the old fort is beleaguered it is sound generalship to recall our troops and let them, as workers, man the ramparts in the new battle of Britain. In defeated, devastated Germany, there are about 130,000 of our sons and brothers scattered about in small units. The force is too small, too static, too dispersed to be effective as a garrison. We cannot afford any longer to use our soldiers as policemen there. British blood and treasure should not be squandered any longer in Palestine in a thankless effort to carry out the terms of a dead mandate."

The article concludes with this remarkable assertion: "These are the ways to save men any money. And as these cuts are made we should, without a sigh, scrap conscription, thus cutting out its disruption of education and of the system of in-

Please note our only address
C. A. BROCK & Co. Ltd.
79 SOUTHERN ROW, LONDON, W.10.
 For all Printing & Stationery

THE ROOT OF THE TROUBLE IN RHEUMATISM AND CATARRH

is not reached by treatments which suppress the symptoms but leave the cause untouched.

ALLY SOL

contains Oil of Garlic—without the Garlic smell—and dissolves these ailments at their root. Allysol garlic liquid, tablets and ointments are deodorised in the sense that they impart no faint whatever to the breath or person. Investigate the impressive record of garlic with its history of 6,000 years. Send stamps 2d. for 20-page booklet of life-conserving information.

Allysol Company, Fairlight, Sussex

dustrial apprenticeships." I could not have put it better myself!

It seems that we are being driven by the force of events to make a choice between economic solvency and military power. Is it too much to hope that a Socialist Government, with the long tradition of anti-militarism that has characterised the British Labour Party will have the insight to recognise this issue and deliberately abandon the fetish of "maintaining Britain's prestige and influence" by military might? How much better would it have been if such a decision had sprung, not from considerations of economic expediency but from an avowed attempt to promote a new scale of values in international relationships, and what a difference it would have made if the gesture of granting independence to India had been accompanied by a declaration that we had not only renounced imperialism but reliance upon military force and the use of the atom-bomb, not because we thought we would have a poor chance of survival in a world of atomic warfare, but because the use of such instruments of destruction was a crime against humanity.

Ironic spectacle

INSTEAD, we have the ironic spectacle of the first Socialist Government departing so far from the traditions both of its own party and its own country as to introduce permanent peacetime conscription. Nevertheless, a decision of the Government to cut the armed forces ruthlessly, even though it were made on the grounds of economic expediency, would have far-reaching effects. The argument that was put forward that we must have conscription to fulfil our military commitments falls to the ground if we openly confess that we can no longer afford to fulfil them. It is becoming increasingly clear that the climate of opinion is changing about conscription. Such statements as that quoted from the *Evening Standard* are significant straws in the wind. With some strong pressure we may yet remove it from the statute book.

Reversal of Potsdam

BUT to return to the economic crisis. Whatever cuts the Government may impose and whatever increases in production may be effected, the fact remains that the ultimate solution does not lie entirely in our own hands, but is dependent upon a recovery in world trade. Economic disaster is teaching us slowly and painfully that we are members one of another and that Europe's recovery—and our own—depends upon the revival of German industry. It is this that has led the Americans and Germans to press for nothing less than a reversal of the Potsdam agreement and insist, in the face of French opposition, on the doubling of the amount of Germany's steel-making capacity and a return to the same level as that for the whole of Germany in 1936. It is unfortunate that the decision has had to be made without French consent. While the raising of German industry to this level is no doubt essential for the economic recovery of Europe it would have been infinitely better if it had been accompanied by the establishment of an international Ruhr authority on the lines of TVA, as suggested in the columns of the *New Statesman* recently. This would have gone a long way to meet the objections of the French and would have been of immense value in restoring the democratic morale of the German workers.

Split on customs union

PERHAPS the most disconcerting feature about the Paris conference discussions on the Western Customs Union proposal is the fact that the leaders of the opposition to the project are Norway and Sweden, countries one might have supposed would have welcomed such a move. They insisted, as did the Swiss, that no initiative should be taken outside the framework of the United Nations. On the other hand, the Benelux group approved the proposal without reservation. It is to be hoped that the reactions of the delegates to the proposals do not represent the final word of their governments on the matter.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

The Eighth Year

The Bounds of Freedom, by Denis Hayes. The Eighth Annual Report of the Central Board for Conscientious Objectors.

IN the space of 16 pages Denis Hayes, for nearly six years publications' editor of CBCO, surveys the activities of the Board during the period, April, 1946 to March, 1947, and makes us realise anew what a debt the movement owes to the Board. It is an impressive record of quiet activity and unceasing vigilance on behalf of C.O.'s with occasional highlights such as the action taken by the Board in the case of Wilkins, the young Methodist from Brighton, who, after taking his stand as a C.O. in the Italian Campaign, was sentenced first to ten years' penal servitude (reduced to five years and later suspended) and at his second court-martial to three months' imprisonment; and in the case of Harry Harrison, the ILP objector on international socialist grounds who was sentenced to two years military detention after giving himself up following some years absence from his unit.

The Lords' amendment

One also learns how the Board tackled the mitigation of difficulties arising from the Lords' amendment whereby C.O.'s, though released from their tribunal conditions, might still be held to their wartime jobs by general labour controls such as the Essential Works Orders, the wider problems of resettlement, and the successful fight against the abolition of unconditional registration under the peacetime conscription measure.

The Bishop of Birmingham contributes a foreword in which he pays warm tribute to the Board and its

officers. We echo his hope that "by a policy of determined friendliness to all the great powers of the world our Government will establish such international goodwill that the need for a conscript army in Britain will vanish."

Terms and Conditions of the Peace Settlement with Germany. A Statement by the Germany Watching Group of the Friends Peace Committee, Friends House, Euston Rd., London, N.W.1. 6d.

This document does not claim to be a political thesis: rather is it concerned, in approaching the question of any real German peace settlement, with those matters "in respect of which there is undoubtedly a characteristic Christian answer." These are the terms of reference within which it has been written.

Quakers and Peace. Pacifist Research Bureau, 316 East Court St., Ithaca, New York. 50c.

Condensing Margaret Hirst's "The Quakers in Peace and War" for the first three-fourths of this pamphlet. Ruth Freeman, aided by Robert and Etta Vogle, has produced a comprehensive little book of reference: especially interesting to those who possess only vague general ideas of the history and faith of the Friends.

How America is Being Militarised, by Oswald Garrison Villard. Post War World Council, 112 East 19th St., New York. 15c.

Mr. Villard gives us a very clear account, which should be studied by all, of the way in which the United States is "becoming one of the most completely militarised nations of modern times." Gradually, in that country, both home and foreign policy is coming under the control of the military.

Ten Years Ago

From Peace News, Sept. 4, 1937

"When we want peace we will have it. We haven't got very far in our international relations because we don't bring them down to the level of personal reactions—that is, the way you feel about your neighbour next door.

"So far, we have only given lip service to our thoughts on peace. Instead it is a way you must live to prevent difficulties from rising."

—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Youth Shoulders the Burden

WAR RESISTERS!

SEPT. 13—20 IS

C.O. FELLOWSHIP WEEK

when your kind support
is invited

Details can be obtained
from the

CENTRAL BOARD FOR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

6, Endsleigh St., Euston
London, W.C.1. 5501

HINDU ASSOCIATION OF EUROPE

President: Dr. Diwan Singh.

LECTURE SERIES

Thursdays at 8 p.m.

at
KINGSWAY HALL, KINGSWAY, W.C.2
(nr. Holborn Tube Station)

by

PANDIT RISHIRAM, B.A.

Sep. 11. Spiritual Basis of International Fellowship.
Ch. Sir John Stewart-Wallace, C.B.

Sep. 18. Future of Indo-British Cultural Relations.
Ch. Reginald Sorensen, M.P.

Sep. 25. Human Life has a Purpose.
Ch. Eric Tucker (Friends' Peace Committee).

Oct. 2. Theory of Karma (Action) and Reincarnation.
Ch. Mrs. Edith Hunter.

Oct. 9. Problem of Sin and Suffering.
Ch. Roy Walker, Author of "Wisdom of Gandhi."

Oct. 16. India's Contribution to World Culture.
Ch. Prof. George Catlin.

ADMISSION FREE.

LOOK! THE WILD SWANS

Juliette de Bairac-Levy
Illustrations by Olga Lehmann

Science, poetry and gypsy knowledge of the countryside unite to make this a memorable novel in the tradition of Dickens or Tolstoy. It is the lowering of the sacred art of medicine and the adoption of animal vivisection with which the author is primarily concerned. This and a Welsh boy's 'miraculous' herbal medical work provide the motif through which is threaded a two-fold love story.

20-

THE C. W. DANIEL CO., LTD.
Ashingdon, Rochford, Essex.